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25 GOVERNOR GUINN: Good evening to all of you

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1 who are here to listen to us and hopefully in an honest
2 fashion. On behalf of the citizens of the state of
3 Nevada, we want to welcome you here this evening and
4 hope that my remarks and the remarks of the many
5 concerned Nevadans who will speak later will be taken
6 in the spirit in which they are intended. That is
7 honest, and constructive, and impassioned public input
8 on an issue that is paramount to the health and safety
9 of every Nevadan, and lest we not forget, every
10 American whose home or school or place of business is
11 along the proposed paths that the deadliest substance
12 on earth, if the DOE has its way, will be brought to
13 Nevada. This debate --

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 This debate is not new. As many of you know,
16 Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear waste repository
17 from coming to Yucca Mountain has raged on for nearly
18 20 years. Unlike many of the policy battles that grip
19 Washington, however, this fight transcends many party
20 affiliations. All party affiliations. Transcends

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21 socio-economic classes, race or gender, and galvanizes

22 all Nevadans practically from every corner of this

23 state in opposition. Though the debate is not new --

24 although it is not new, I must say that recent

25 developments, and those that bring us here tonight, are

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1 quite alarming and raise a number of new concerns that

2 we're truly concerned with, panel. The very purpose

3 for this meeting is in question. You invited me and

4 many of these good people here tonight so you and the

5 Department of Energy can gather public comment on

6 scientific evidence that is not complete, and that has

7 not been made public to me nor the people in this room.

8 Public comment --

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 Public comment in the absence of all

11 important evidence. It's premature, and is grossly

12 irresponsible to ask us to comment on what we do not

13 have before us. Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the

14 way we do business in Nevada.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 And certainly this is not the way the

17 government should handle its affairs. I am very

18 disappointed you have chosen to disregard essentially
19 all of our offices and my office's recommendations and
20 decided to hold these hearings and these meetings
21 prematurely and over our reasonable and faithful
22 objections. We in Nevada will not stand for it.

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 Therefore, I would strongly advise you today,
25 and formally request at the same time, you schedule

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1 additional hearings, which you've already had announced
2 today by Secretary Abraham after we had written a
3 letter. I just got it today, about 3:30, so we know
4 it's been extended for 15 days, which isn't much time
5 to go over the detail we've been given in the last few
6 weeks. Of course, we'll have these over the coming
7 months across Nevada, and hopefully it will give more
8 citizens and their elected leaders a fair and
9 appropriate chance to respond to your completed
10 findings, should you have them. And I assure you, my
11 outrage at the lack of protocol that has permeated this
12 process will be detailed in letters directly to
13 Secretary Abraham and to the President of the United
14 States.

15 (APPLAUSE)

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16 It is my sincere hope that you recognize this
17 error and your duty to correct it as quickly as
18 possible. I don't have to remind anyone here today
19 that it was not long ago that Nevadans and all
20 Americans were assured that nuclear testing was safe.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 It was less than 50 years ago, and since that
23 time, the DOE admitted that the aftermath of testing of
24 the hydrogen bomb at Yucca Flats caused innocent
25 Americans to die, and that cancer benefits should be
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1 paid to the families of dozens of men and women who
2 were contaminated by the fallout from the nuclear
3 testing. I'm not talking about casualties of war in
4 some distant country. I am talking about the small
5 farmers in our neighboring Utah who tragically suffered
6 from contaminated nuclear air. And I'm talking about
7 the Nevada workers and their families who took the
8 government at their word, and as workers trekked to and
9 from the test site every day -- and I knew many of them
10 -- they were assured that they were not in harm's way.
11 And I'm talking about the generations of patriotic

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12 American families, financially wiped out fighting
13 cancer while they awaited some word of admission or
14 assistance from their government. The DOE pathetically
15 only made that admission just a few years ago, and it
16 came only after years of denial and government red
17 tape. And just yesterday, just yesterday, we learned
18 for the first time that germ warfare testing -- imagine
19 -- germ warfare testing was conducted at that same test
20 site without any knowledge whatsoever by our own
21 congressional delegation and my office as Governor.
22 With a track record like this, it is no wonder the
23 Department of Energy lacks credibility, not only in
24 Nevada, but also in our neighboring states.

25 (APPLAUSE)

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1 Given the history, I trust you can understand
2 why I view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
3 technically so. It violates --

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 It violates everything we believe in as
6 Americans. It duplicates all that was wrong in the
7 past, and gives credence to the mistrust and cynicism
8 harbored by so many of our people. Our concerns are

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9 clear. This wonderful state has been ignored for far
10 too long. We demand fairness, and we demand
11 accountability in this process. We will not sit idly
12 by and let the Department of Energy run roughshod over
13 our citizens with empty promises and bad science.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 Let's remember, we did it once in good faith
16 as proud and loyal Americans, but sadly we did not get
17 back what we gave. So we have learned from the past,
18 and we are not about to repeat the past this time.

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Governor Kenny Guinn

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